

Headquarters Air Combat Command

Army Weather Transformation Briefing to the Field



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**This Briefing is:
UNCLASSIFIED**



Purpose

Update Battlefield Weather Personnel on AF Force Tailoring Concept

NOTE: This briefing is for information purposes only. It is not directive. It is based on a DRAFT Program Action Directive which has not yet been finalized or signed.



Battlefield Weather Liaisons/ Deployed Options

GARRISON: Battlefield Weather Liaisons

<i>ECHELON</i>	<i>OFF / ENL</i>
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Theater Army	2 / 2
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CORPS	1 / 1
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DIV	1 / 1
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AVN BDE	1 / 5
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BDE/SBCT/ACR	0 / 1
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Airfield Services	varies
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Liaison elements are the faces the Army warfighters see every day. Aviation liaison elements may be tailored.

DEPLOYED: Range of Options

<i>ECHELON</i>	<i>COMPOSITION</i>
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Theater Army	tailored
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CORPS	tailored
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DIV	tailored
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AVN BDE	tailored
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BDE/SBCT/ACR	tailored
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Airfield Services	N/A
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Composition determined based on mission requirements.

“FORCE POOLING” enables AF Weather to rapidly respond to the needs of the entire Army.



Battlefield Weather Forces

- **BW LN: Battlefield Weather Liaison**
 - **Member(s) of the weather detachment/squadron**
 - **Office ideally in the brigade/division HQ to ensure daily integration**
 - **Travels with aligned Army unit on most FTXs, deployments, etc**
 - **Maintains weather Army MTOE and limited AF TACMET with assistance from other detachment personnel**
 - **Deploys IAW USAF policy (e.g. 179-day limit); may need backfill for long Army deployments**



Battlefield Weather Forces

- **Airfield Services Element**
 - **Members of the weather detachment**
 - **Trained to fill BW requirements for FTXs and deployments**
 - **Office located in traditional garrison weather station to support daily flight operations**
 - **Detachment commander will determine who, when, why to rotate personnel between BW LN and Airfield Services positions**
 - **MEF support is responsibility of both Airfield Services and aviation brigade BW LN. Detachment commanders will delineate specific MEF responsibilities within their detachments.**



Battlefield Weather Forces

- **BWT: Battlefield Weather Team**
 - **Composed of BW LN, Airfield Services personnel, wx sq contingency flight, or other available BW personnel**
 - **Capable of MEF production**
 - **Force tailored by DetCo or WX Sq CC**
 - **Aligned with an Army unit for the duration of a deployment or FTX**
 - **Constrained by USAF deployment rules (e.g. 179-day limit) —may need to rotate during lengthy Army deployments**
- **Detachment Commander**
 - **Part of ASOG command structure, reports to WX Sq CC**
 - **BW LN to the highest collocated Army echelon**
 - **Office located in Army staff HQ to ensure daily integration with operations, planning, etc**



Battlefield Weather

Chain of Command

- **WX Squadron Commander**
 - **Rated by ASOG commander**
 - **Functional manager of weather in ASOG; commander of wx dets/OLs**
 - **Oversees contingency/training/operations/etc flights at Sq HQ location**
 - **Manages all AF TACMET/WX BA equipment—can reallocate if needed**
 - **Ensures readiness and training of all Sq BW personnel**
 - **Responsible for equitably allocating weather personnel and equipment to support deployments, field exercises, NTC/JRTC rotations, etc**



Battlefield Weather

Chain of Command

- **Air Support Operations Group**
 - Provides resources to wx squadron
 - Gives guidance/direction as needed between WS/dets and ASOSs to ensure overall Army support missions accomplished
- **Air Support Operations Squadron**
Commander/Division ALO
 - Often the senior Air Force officer on an Army installation
 - Possible source of local support and “top cover” to weather detachment



Advantages

- **Greater deployment flexibility**
 - All Battlefield Weather forces available to support each Army unit
 - Deployment and FTX load spread evenly across entire squadrons
- **Predictable deployment cycles**
 - Can be synchronized with 3-year ARFORGEN and 20-month AEF cycles
 - Centralized weather planning within weather squadrons
- **Maximized training efficiencies**
 - Regular squadron training events for BW personnel from all dets
 - Small detachments relieved of significant training burden



Advantages

- **Decreased equipment requirements**
 - **Enables pooled TACMET at weather squadrons**
 - **Weather squadron can re-allocate between detachments as needed**
- **Focus on wartime mission**
 - **BW LNs, working inside Army warfighter headquarters every day, will be better integrated in Army's Military Decision Making Process**
 - **Squadron contingency and training flights' only mission is to train and go to war**
 - **Squadron capable of standing-up Battlefield Weather Overwatch Teams as alternative method of MEF production to BWTs**



Challenges

- **Still require 145 additional active-duty positions**
 - **Need to recruit and grow new Battlefield Airmen**
 - **Interim solution: direct support in same echelons as today, reachback support for BCTs until additional manpower is available**
 - **Good news: Army weather support is a high priority for the AF**
- **“Back-40” exercises**
 - **Bulk of responsibility to detachments, especially in early years while squadron contingency flights are still growing**
 - **Wx Sq CCs will have significant leeway to set internal policy**
 - **TDY funding for augmentation of BW LNs is approved in the President’s budget**
- **MTOE maintenance**
 - **Near-impossible to pool current Army MTOEs like AF TACMET**
 - **Dets will need to develop internal plans for MTOE maintenance**
 - **Army may pursue AF WX Sq TOE to enable tailoring**



Weather Transformation Timeline

- **2006: Begin Reorganization**
- **Continue support to currently supported echelons**
 - **Realign wx detachments under wx squadrons (still part of ASOG)**
 - **Minor manpower shifts between wx dets and wx squadrons based on new BW LN element size and airfield requirements**
 - **WX Sqs assume oversight of training and warfighter support for all dets**
 - **WX Sqs begin augmentation at affected units**
- **Locations transformed in FY06:**
 - **Fort Campbell...moves a few authorizations to 18 WS**
 - **Fort Stewart/Hunter...little/no manpower change**
 - **Fort Carson...little/no manpower change**
 - **Fort Eustis...JLOTS authorizations move to 18 WS**
 - **3 and 18 WS internal reorganization to stand up contingency and training flights**



Weather Transformation Timeline

- **2007: Growth focused on the squadrons**
 - Continue support to currently supported echelons
 - Do not begin support to new BCTs yet
 - WX Sqs expand BW augmentation to additional units
 - WX Sqs get the largest portion of increased manpower authorizations
 - WX Sqs receive additional TACMET
 - Dets continue to receive manning/equipment to fill requirements
- **Locations transformed in FY07:**
 - Fort Drum...little/no manpower change
 - Fort Riley stands up det under 3 WS
 - Fort Bliss stands up det under 3 WS



Weather Transformation Timeline

- **2008: Develop squadrons more, begin det growth**
 - Support to first new BCTs starts 4FY08
 - Increase manning at detachments for BW LN positions
 - Provide additional TACMET to weather detachments
 - Stand-up OLs at geographically separate BCTs (Benning, Polk, Knox)
- **Support to new BCTs is phased in through 2011**
 - BCTs deploying in 2009 get first support
 - BCTs deploying in 2010/2011 get support as additional manning becomes available
 - BW LN is one weather BA per BCT in garrison
 - Bulk of BW manning for BCTs is at the Wx Sqs



Capabilities

OWS

Operational Weather Squadron. Provide regionally focused wx products to forward-deployed wx forces through reachback. Also provide airfield forecasts and wx watches, warnings and advisories for garrison / deployed locations as required

BWT

BW Team. A force-tailored team of BW personnel that provides or arranges for wx support to a specified Army unit. Primarily use OWS regional guidance to produce MEFs. May be split into task-organized teams for specific missions.

BW LN

BW Liaison. A force-tailored team of BW personnel (may be 1 person) that arranges for MEF support for a specific Army unit. Maintains weather and operational situational awareness and coordinates MEF support from the BWOT or non-collocated BWT.

BWOT

BW Overwatch Team. A centralized force-tailored team that provides direct mission execution forecast (MEF) support to deployed BW Liaisons and support brigades without in-place wx forces through overwatch. BWOT + BW LN = Geographically Dispersed BWT

***FORCES TAILORED TO MISSION
REQUIREMENTS***